

Colorado Medicaid Hospital Services

What hospital services are available to Colorado Medicaid clients?

- Medicaid pays for all medically necessary hospital services. These include inpatient, emergency and outpatient services. Surgery, therapies, laboratory, X-ray and other diagnostic services are provided when ordered by a doctor.

How do I get services?

- You are referred for hospital services by your primary care doctor. If you are very ill or injured, you may go to an emergency room. You should always see your primary care doctor for minor illnesses.

I've heard that some services are not approved. Why is that?

- Services must be medically necessary. Some procedures – for example, surgeries for cosmetic reasons – have to be approved before the surgery. If surgery is not medically necessary, Medicaid will not pay for it. Medicaid also does not pay for experimental treatments or treatments not covered by Medicare.

How do I find out if my surgery can be approved?

- To get approval for your surgery or other procedure, your doctor must send a *prior authorization request* to Colorado Foundation for Medical Care. You, your doctor, and the facility will find out if the surgery is approved or denied.

What if my surgery is denied?

- Medicaid has an appeals process which includes a second review of the request, followed by a hearing before an administrative law judge. You and your doctor will be informed of how to request a second review or a hearing when you receive a denial letter.

What kind of outpatient services are available?

- Each hospital offers its own selection of outpatient services. These can include clinics, therapies and day programs. Your doctor can help refer you to the best place to find needed services.

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